

SAN JOSE/EVERGREEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

San José City College • Evergreen Valley College

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Response to Comments by Shappel Vice President Kelly Erardi

At the September 21, 2005 task force meeting, Kelly Erardi spoke in opposition to any retail development on the College District site. He certainly is entitled to his opinion on this matter, but he represented that the College District had violated a promise to Shappel regarding development on our site.

That statement is not accurate and suggests that we have acted in bad faith. The understanding that we came to with the City and Shappel related to the retail development which is now on the corner of San Felipe and Yerba Buena. We reduced the size of the center to six acres and limited the major anchor to no more than 20,000 square feet. That was the agreement and we honored it. That occurred in 1996, nine years ago. The goal was to allow Shappel time to establish it's center. Nine years is certainly ample time for that to occur.

To suggest that this was a perpetual condition is totally unrealistic and a condition that no one would accept. We would never agree to such a limitation and didn't. Our agreement related only to the development on those six acres. The College District takes seriously its reputation for integrity and meeting its commitments. The statements made were too important for us to simply ignore without a response. It is our position and one supported by the City's retail study that retail development on our site better serves the community's interests and needs.

Sincerely,

Michael Hill
San Jose/Evergreen Community College District
Task Force Member